

Minutes of the Meeting
State Soil Conservation Board
Jennings County Library
North Vernon, IN
March 14, 2006

Present

Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Warren Baird
Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens
Jim Cherry

Others Present

Tammy Lawson	Chris Tippie
Jerod Chew	Dee Dee Sigler
Cris Goode	Gene Weaver
Martha Weaver	Dennis Wilson
Sheila Richart	Sheila Pitzer

I. Call to Order

Bob Eddleman called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

II. Draft Minutes of February 14, 2006

Bill Mann moved to accept the February minutes as presented. Warren Baird seconded. Motion carried.

III. Supervisor Resignations/Appointments

Cris Goode presented two supervisor resignations and appointments. The resignations and appointments included: Wayne County-Resignation of Duane Cates, Appointment of David Drake; Daviess County-Resignation of Bob Cornelius, Appointment of Alan Keith.

Nola Gentry moved to approve the resignations. Larry Clemens seconded. Motion carried.

Warren Baird moved to approve the appointments. Jim Cherry seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Division Director's Report (see attached report)

Additional items to written report.

- CWI Grants 109 applications received with over \$500,000 requested.
- DSC Staffing:
 - Kim Wininger recently retired from DSC. We are actively seeking to fill both vacant DSS positions. (Central Northeast and Southeast)
 - DSC will be getting 4 interns this summer. They will be placed throughout the Division according to their skills.
- Transition with IDEM moving forward. Positions have been transferred. DSC is working with surplus to allocated former DSC vehicles to IDEM for the program.

- DNR has transferred the funds owed to Districts for services rendered to the Division. Once Districts have confirmed amounts owed with the numbers from IDEM, DSC will distribute funds.

Division Assistant Director's Report

- CIT: Deb Fairhurst has been working with Chris Tippie to analyze workloads. This will help DSC determine which areas to hire 2 to 3 more RSs.
- DSC and NRCS now have an interim agreement for vehicle and equipment usage. Through this new agreement, DSC staff can now utilize NRCS ATVs, vehicles and equipment. DSC staff will soon begin training on these items.
- CREP: \$90,000 has already been allocated to Indiana's CREP program since January. Most of this funding went toward filter strips and tree plantings. CREP coordinators are very pleased. DSC is still working on contract extension and easements.
- SWCD Support: Recent Supervisor Workshop a success. Over 125 Supervisors statewide participated in the video conference meeting. Questions that were not answered that evening are being collected and will be posted to the web.
- New Supervisor Orientations: Orientations are being scheduled by DSS on an individual basis in their regions.
- Annual Meetings are wrapping up.

VI. SSCB Chairman Report

Bob Eddleman requested that Chris Tippie of NRCS speak about the upcoming meeting of the State Food and Agriculture Council (FAC).

Chris spoke about the newly formed council to study office consolidation. (written report attached)

The SSCB requested that the council consider natural resources, watersheds, markets and urbanization when making their recommendation.

VII. IDEM Report-No report given

VIII. IASWCD Report (written report attached)

The SSCB requested that DSC work with Chad Frahm and the ICP Outreach committee to educate ICP staff and Districts on the implications of the change in District Law.

IX. NRCS Report:

- ICP's District Visits Program going very well. This month, LaGrange and Ripley are scheduled to participate.
- CRP-General sign-up is currently going on. (Extensions, re-enrollment and new enrollments.)
- Re-evaluating technical assistance to make it more efficient. CITs are extremely efficient, however, we need to make them more efficient.
- On Monday, NRCS plans to send out a letter to all SWCD Chairs notifying them that NRCS will seek reimbursement for rent beginning Jan 07. Rental rates will vary upon locations and square footage. Once leases have expired, SWCDs will be a part of the lease re-negotiations.

Board members cautioned the timing of this decision and suggested it be in conjunction with the consolidation discussions of FAC.

X. FSA Report: No report given

XI. Public Comment

Dennis Wilson of Scott County commented that he really enjoyed the Supervisor Workshop and thought the video conferencing went over very well. He also mentioned that SWCDs would like to know if CWI grants were going to continue and expressed the need for more time to prepare to work with County Councils.

Shelia Pitzer and Shelia Richart of Jennings County mentioned they had learned a lot and were glad they came to the SSCB meeting.

XII. SSCB Discussions

- SWCD Earned Income/NACD Legislative Conference.

Bob Eddleman discussed the recent issue of CWI funds being utilized for lobbying activities in Washington. The question also arose regarding non-CWI District funds and their use. The SSCB discussed this issue at length. DSC will consult Chad Frahm and report back to the board.

Tammy Lawson suggested the ICP Strategic Plan Leadership Development Committee consider these types of conferences for Partnership training and development so that they will be a part of an overall strategic plan.

- CWI Grants- The SSCB broke into grant sub-committees to make recommendations for CWI Awards.

The sub-committees discussed their recommendations with the rest of the board. Larry Clemens disclosed his/TNC's connection with one of the CWI grants proposals.

Jim Cherry moved that the board accept the sub-committee recommendations contingent upon the final grants approval process and any requested alterations by the board. Warren Baird seconded. Motion carried.

XIII. Next Meeting: April 11, 2006, 9 am at IGCS

XIV. Meeting Adjourned (Approximately 4:30 pm)

Minutes Prepared By: Cris Goode

Approved By:
